

**REMARKS**

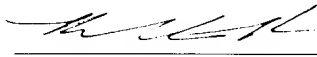
Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 44 and 46 have been amended to claim the amino acid sequence relative to SEQ ID NO:5. In particular, amino acid positions 1-228 of SEQ ID NO:5 correspond to positions 29-256 of SEQ ID NO:2 and Figures 4A-4C, as recited in the previously pending claims. No new matter has been added by way of the foregoing amendment and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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By:



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**Version Showing Changes Made to Claims**

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 44 and 46 have been amended as follows:

1. (Five times amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) a sequence encoding an immunogenic polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to the contiguous amino acid sequence shown at positions 1 through 256, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO:2; and (b) a sequence encoding an immunogenic polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to the contiguous amino acid sequence shown at positions [29 through 256] 1-228, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO:5.

3. (Five times amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes an immunogenic polypeptide having a sequence with at least 90% sequence identity to the contiguous amino acid sequence shown at positions [29 through 256] 1-228, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO:5.

4. (Five times amended) A recombinant vector comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid molecule encoding an immunogenic polypeptide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of: (i) a sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the contiguous amino acid sequence shown at positions 1 through 256, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO:2; and (ii) a sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the contiguous amino acid sequence shown at positions [29 through 256] 1-228, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO:5; and

(b) control elements that are operably linked to said nucleic acid molecule whereby said coding sequence can be transcribed and translated in a host cell, and at least one of said control elements is heterologous to said coding sequence.

The recombinant vector of claim 4 wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes an immunogenic polypeptide which comprises a sequence

having at least 90% sequence identity to the contiguous amino acid sequence shown at positions [29 through 256] 1-228, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO:5.

44. (Twice amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) a sequence encoding the contiguous amino acid sequence shown at positions 1 through 256, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO:2; and (b) a sequence encoding the contiguous amino acid sequence shown at positions [29 through 256] 1-228, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO:5.

46. (Twice amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 44 wherein said sequence encodes the contiguous amino acid sequence shown at positions [29 through 256] 1-228, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO:5.